

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

Listing of The Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope and medical treatment accessory comprising:
 - an endoscope shaft having a treatment accessory integrated at its distal end, wherein the treatment accessory further comprises a tissue apposition device comprising at least one suction port and at least one needle longitudinally slidable through the accessory to penetrate tissue aspirated into the suction port;
 - at least one accessory control element extending through the length of the endoscope; and
 - an accessory control mechanism mounted at the proximal end of the endoscope.
3. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 2 wherein the treatment accessory comprises a tissue apposition device formed as a cylindrical cartridge that mounts over a reduced diameter portion of the endoscope.
4. (Presently amended) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 3 wherein the cylindrical cartridge further comprises a side suction port and at least one tissue capturing means that is advanced through captured tissue along a circumferential path that rotates about a longitudinal access axis of the endoscope.
5. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 4 wherein the suction port further comprises a partition wall that forces aspirated tissue to form into two separate tissue mounds.

6. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 2 wherein the treatment accessory comprises a tissue suturing device having at least one suction port and vacuum chamber and a semi-circular needle configured to be advanced in a circular path that traverses the vacuum chamber and tissue aspirated therein.

7. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 2 wherein the treatment accessory further comprises a tissue apposition device having at least one suction port and vacuum chamber having a bottom surface and an optical viewing port and air and water port are present on the bottom surface.

8. (Original) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 7 wherein the treatment accessory further comprises an optical viewing port and air and water port located at a distal tip of the endoscope accessory.

9. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 2 wherein the treatment accessory further comprises a tissue apposition device having an angulated distal face that is oriented at an acute angle from the longitudinal axis of the endoscope;

a suction port opened on the distal face to a vacuum chamber having a back wall surface; an optical viewing port and vacuum port arranged on the back wall surface of the vacuum chamber and

a needle configured to be advanced so that it traverses the vacuum chamber at an orientation that is parallel to the distal face.

10. (Presently amended) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 2 ~~wherein~~ the treatment accessory further comprises a tissue apposition device having a suction port with a partial partition wall to divide tissue aspirated into the port into two portions;

at least one staple oriented to be advanced through captured tissue portions and closed upon an anvil located at a distal end of the accessory, and

a staple driver for advancing a staple longitudinally through the accessory and captured tissue portions.

11. (Previously presented) An integrated endoscope as defined in Claim 2 wherein the treatment accessory further comprises;

at least one access port adjacent the distal end of the endoscope and a tissue grasping device arranged to be advanced through the access port and operated to grasp tissue and pull it through the access port into the accessory.

12. (Previously presented) A method of performing an endoscopic medical procedure comprising:

providing an endoscope having at its distal end an integrated tissue apposition device comprising at least one suction port and at least one needle longitudinally slidable through the tissue apposition device,

inserting the distal end of the endoscope into a patient and navigating it to a treatment site carrying out a medical procedure involving manipulation of internal tissues, without introducing a secondary medical device through the endoscope or external to the endoscope, and

withdrawing the endoscope from the patient.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, where the tissue apposition device is comprised within a treatment accessory that is integrated into the distal end of the endoscope.

14. (New) The method of claim 12, where the endoscope comprises:

at least one accessory control element extending through the length of the endoscope; and

an accessory control mechanism mounted at the proximal end of the endoscope.

15. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device is formed as a cylindrical cartridge that mounts over a reduced diameter portion of the endoscope.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the cylindrical cartridge further comprises a side suction port and at least one tissue capturing means that is advanced through captured tissue along a circumferential path that rotates about a longitudinal axis of the endoscope.

17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the suction port further comprises a partition wall that forces aspirated tissue to form into two separate tissue mounds.

18. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device comprises a vacuum chamber and a semi-circular needle configured to be advanced in a circular path that traverses the vacuum chamber and tissue aspirated therein.

19. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device further comprises a vacuum chamber having a bottom surface and an optical viewing port and an air and water port are present on the bottom surface.

20. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device further comprises an optical viewing port and air and water port located at a distal tip of the endoscope accessory.

21. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device comprises:

an angulated distal face that is oriented at an acute angle from the longitudinal axis of the endoscope;

a suction port opened on the distal face to a vacuum chamber having a back wall surface, an optical viewing port and vacuum port arranged on the back wall surface of the vacuum chamber and
a needle configured to be advanced so that it traverses the vacuum chamber at an orientation that is parallel to the distal face.

22. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device further comprises:

a suction port with a partial partition wall to divide tissue aspirated into the port into two portions;
at least one staple oriented to be advanced through captured tissue portions and closed upon an anvil located at a distal end of the device, and
a staple driver for advancing a staple longitudinally through the device and captured tissue portions.

23. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the tissue apposition device further comprises;

at least one access port adjacent the distal end of the endoscope; and
a tissue grasping device arranged to be advanced through the access port and operated to grasp tissue and pull it through the access port into the device.